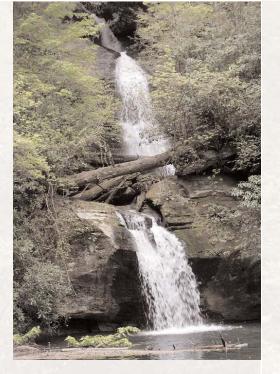
## Vater, Rising Joy



## Hiking South Carolina's Waterfall Country

Ridge Mountains took on the natural beauty that beckons Cherokee knew, them will reward you. hikers to its trails, cloaked in green and running white with rapids and waterfalls. Today her waters churn, plumgravity's grasp.

In much, much earlier times, when earth shifted. Watch for black bears and mountain wildflowers, and pushing up mountains, punching out gorges and filling tune your ear to the sound of tinkling, crashing water, for riverbeds with crystalline waters, the upstate of South rivulets often betray falls. Whether you're a day hiker or Carolina was very fortunate. It was then that the Blue an overnighter, "the Great Blue Hills of God," as the

For instance, consider hiking the imaginary line that determines which sea the waters flow into—the Eastern met, stair step, froth and run white toward two seas as Continental Divide. It courses through spectacular hikers trek uphill and waters freefall over ledges, each in scenery, running southwest to northeast generally. On its north and west sides, water flows to the Gulf of Mexico, Waterfalls, hiking and mountains—an Upstate classic. to its east and south, the Atlantic. Beneath Jones Gap

Up here in the Upcountry, mountain breezes blow away your troubles, cool streams refresh aching feet, and nature's shower—a waterfall—sends shivers down the spine.

A day afield, hiking stick in hand and backpack heavy, waterfall, the waters above you head for two coasts. may prove taxing but rewarding: once you've made it to atop granite pinnacles. Up here in the Upcountry, refresh aching feet, and nature's shower—a waterfall your tent or cabin in state parks with names such as again.

bring along a spirit for adventure and an eye for nature. challenging. Be careful. Always.

The Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area alone offers the top of your world, your reward is stunning views from trails ranging from short and easy to moderate, such as the two-mile hike to Raven Cliff Falls or the strenuous mountain breezes blow away your troubles, cool streams 4.3-mile trek to the rim of Jones Gap. Feel like a challenge? Ascend Sassafras Mountain. At 3,560 feet, sends shivers down the spine. By the time you return to it's the highest point in South Carolina- its "rooftop". Of course, it's not the mileage as much as elevation, Devils Fork, Caesars Head, Keowee-Toxaway, and steepness, terrain and conditions. Weaving along Jones Gap, you're relaxed, recharged and ready to do it mountain flanks through thick ranks of rhododendron and mountain laurel, navigating slippery, water-splashed First timer? Grab some good shoes, rain gear, and rocks, and descending into and out of ravines proves

## Land of Falling Waters

Here in the Upcountry you'll find waterfalls beautiful to behold, each different. Ease up Highway 130 near the North Carolina line to glimpse Whitewater Falls' twin cataracts, plunging more than 400 feet downward, the SC-NC boundary running between them. This, the Eastern United State's highest vertical falls. Want to see others? Here's a partial list.

Day hike to one of the Eastern United State's highest and beautiful falls: Raven Cliff Falls, near Caesars Head, plummeting some 420 feet. Brave? Cross its swinging footbridge a la Indiana Jones style.

Falls Creek Falls drops its beauty 100 feet in two levels. Rainbow Falls plummets 80 to 100 feet over chromatic granite. Twin Falls splits Reedy Cove Creek, one falls over a granite wall, the other over boulders.

And so, here you are. You've hiked uphill for a long while but feel more alive than ever.

Falls with beautiful names live here ... Issagueena Falls and its three stair-stepping cascades ... Laurel Fork Falls, spilling into Lake Jocassee ... Brasstown Falls, a sheer curtain of water ... Station Cove, a glittering filigree of silver ... King Creek Falls, an upside down geyser of white slashing through a green alleyway. And, yes, still others.

Where to stay? Most any place you want. Base camps for hiking and exploring waterfalls abound. There's Caesars Head State Park, Jones Gap State Park, Devils Fork, Keowee-Toxaway, and Table Rock, with its most-photographed mountain in South Carolina and excellent network of trails.

And so, here you are. You've hiked uphill for a long while but feel more alive than ever. Hemlock and spruce spice the air, and birds flit through boughs like sprites. Ahead a roar, understated but growing ... a few more turns and the air thunders and shakes and mists chill the wind. Then you see it: a majestic drapery of water pounding a bed of granite. The classic unmovable object and the irresistible force, and you behold it. In the Upcountry.

Find out more...

For a SC Waterfalls brochure, please call 1-800-862-1795 or 1-800-849-4766.



